

The Democratic Pioneer.

TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE CONSTITUTION.

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1855.

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BY L. D. STARKE.

DEMOCRATIC PIONEER.

L. D. STARKE,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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POETRY.

LINES.

The Louisville Journal says:—We defy any
lover of poetry to read the following
without exclaiming:—How beautiful!

And this sacred image keeps
In my heart, and in my dreams,
And in the silent hours of sleep,
And in the morning dawn of day,
And in the evening glow of light,<

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"This is no pawnbroker's shop, girl; and if it was, this is not worth two dollars." "It is of inestimable value to me, sir," answered she earnestly, and her cheek slightly flushed at the rude manner of his reply.

"I don't know what you may value it at," he answered with a cold laugh, glancing at Col. McHenry, whom he saw severely observing him; "I would not like to give you six shillings for it."

"But sir," pleaded the girl, unconscious of being overheard, "I must have seven dollars to-day, and I have no other way of getting it, and I was in hopes, sir, that you might let me have that sum on it; for I will certainly come back and take it up again."

"I tell you," answered Mr. Broochard angrily, "I keep no pawnbroker's shop. Go to the Jews."

"They won't give me but two dollars, sir, and I want seven."

"And so you think to get it out of me?" The young girl was about to speak again, but as if not knowing what further arguments to urge, hesitated, and was turning slowly away, when she checked herself and again spoke to him thus:

"Sir," said she in a low thrilling voice of earnest entreaty; "my mother is lying very ill, and our rent is due at 12 o'clock to-day, and the persons we saw for having disappointed us in our pay, I have no other resource but this! Oh, sir, will you take this class only for a few days, and I will then repay you?"

Mr. Broochard felt that Col. McHenry's eyes were upon him, waiting an answer, and he wished him to think him a man of business, (which meant in his notion a man without a heart,) he answered promptly and sternly:

"No. Do you think we are simpletons here to throw away money in this way? If you have nothing more to say, please stand aside for customers."

"Well, Colonel, do you think of those? Latest importation; full jewelled and warranted in all points. I will give you the one just laid down for one hundred and ninety-five dollars."

The gentleman, however, was not heeding him, but watching the young girl whom he saw leaving the counter with a heavy drooping step approaching the door.

Her face had struck him for its sweet intelligent loveliness, and her modesty had for him an irresistible charm; but her plea of poverty and her eloquent appeal to the tradesman, deeply interested his feelings, and enlisted his sympathies in her behalf.

He had silently observed the progress of her interview with him, with emotions of contempt for one, and pity for the other.

Her hand was on the knob of the door, when advancing towards her—

"You asked, I believe, for seven dollars?" he said, with a gentle interest in his tone that at once awakened hope in her heart; and brought the light to her eyes and the heat to her cheek, as she diffidently answered:

"Yes, sir; I should not have been so bold and urgent, but—"

"None too much so. There is a tea dollar note; I have no smaller bills."

"Sir, you are too kind—"

"Not a word. I am happy to do you a service."

"Take this class, sir, though I am ashamed to offer it to you, since the gentleman says it is so valuable. But to me it is as valuable as life, and I feel bound to give it to you."

"I do not want it, sir," answered Col. McHenry, firmly putting the tea dollar in his hand and leaving the goldsmith's with her.

fully, yet with a cheerful air, looked the class in his private drawer, and taking out the key placed it in his pocket. He had hardly done so when Col. McHenry entered, and without speaking or looking at him, cast his eyes upon the show case for the class, which he recollected after going out the young girl had laid down but did not take it up again, and so he turned back for it. Abraham Broochard was very busily engaged in replacing the watches in their doo-skin coverings, and preserved silence. At length Col. McHenry spoke:

"That young person laid her class on this case, sir, which I neglected to take up. It was a pity it should be lost, she valued it so highly."

"The class! Oh, oh, I have not seen it, sir. She took it up again."

"Did you see her?"

"Yes, oh yes! I had my eyes on her, and said at the time you'd never see your ten dollars or the class again."

The gentleman eyed him steadily an instant, and then glancing round the show-case again, as if in search of it, he quit the shop.

PART II.

Several days had elapsed, and Col. McHenry had quite forgotten the circumstances just narrated, when as he was passing down Arch street he felt his sleeve suddenly pulled by some one he heard running behind him, and looking round beheld, with cheek glowing from pursuit the young girl he had seen at the goldsmith's.

"Oh, sir, I am so happy to have found you," she said, at once addressing him, he stopped and with pleasure listened to her.

"I was at length enabled to get my pay, and by other work have earned enough to repay you the ten dollars you so kindly gave me. You don't know the good you did sir—the suffering you relieved—the evil you timely averted—Here is the money sir."

"Nay, my good girl, I do not want it. I made you a present of it at the time, and did not expect you to return it. I am however glad to find you have the disposition to do so, and that I was not deceived in my estimation of you."

"You must take it, sir," she said with ingenious earnestness. "I should be distressed to lie longer under pecuniary obligations to an entire stranger. Besides, sir, I would like to have my class, if you please."

"Did you not take it from the case where you laid it down?" he asked with surprise and justly directed suspicion.

"No sir—indeed sir, I hope it is not lost. It is of countless value to me. It was given to me by—"

"By a sweetheart?" he added smiling.

"He is now dead, sir," she answered with overflowing eyes.

"You do well to value it. I did not take it up. Are you sure you left it there?"

"Yes sir; hoping you would take it and keep it till I paid you."

"Well, my child, I have not got it; but I believe the goldsmith has. Let us go to him."

On their arrival, Mr. Broochard denied ever having seen it since she went out, and that he saw her take it with her and place it in her bosom as she left the shop. The young lady turned pale, and was unconsciously distressed.

"Come with me, I will find the class for you," said Col. McHenry offering her his arm and leaving the goldsmith's with her.

his reason forsook him, and instead of the gallows he is now raving in a mad house. Thus was avarice and parsimony, and indifference to the sufferings of the poor punished in this life; the acts of this selfish man showing to all how that acquisitiveness wrongly directed its possessor.

Col. McHenry proved to be a bachelor and though a little turned of thirty, his heart was keenly alive to all the finer sensibilities of our nature. He could feel for the down-trodden poor and sympathize with the unfortunate. To this truth none could more positively attest than the young friend of the "golden class," for ere two moons had waned she rejoiced in the euphonic title of Mrs. McHenry, surrounded with all the appearances of wealth that a grateful heart could enjoy or even wish. Her poor afflicted mother was well provided for, when she soon recovered her health and happiness, and prosperity smiled upon all.

From the Cincinnati Commercial, Jan. 30.

A DOUBLE BABY.

We stated, a few days since, that a strange case of malformation had occurred at Lancaster, in this State, and promised a more full description of the curious production, which we hoped to gain at the hands of some of our medical friends. As they, however, from some cause or other, do not incline to do it, we have put several of them under cross-examination and intend to embody in our own language what we have learned. Our friend Professor N. T. Marshall, of the Medical College of Ohio, and perhaps others of the city, have seen the prodigy which is, beyond doubt, one of the most remarkable freaks of nature known to science or recorded in history. The February number of the Western Lancet, published in this city, will contain, as we are informed, a full scientific description of the wonder.

From the lower extremity of the breast-bone—where the junction of the two bodies take place—upwards, there are the upper parts of two perfect and well developed infants—two heads, two pairs of arms, two chests, two stomachs, two hearts, two pairs of lungs, and two livers. From the same point downwards, the blending of the two systems into one, becomes more and more intimate, until it seems almost perfect and complete. The intestines, and all lower organs, are in common with commonality, and the legs made up of the right leg of one and the left leg of the other, are a pair, standing in the proper position relative to each other, and to the organs in their vicinity. In the rear, however, the union is less perfect, each terminating in a separate coccyx; and, what is peculiarly strange, the two inner legs, dislocated at the hip joints, are thrown backwards and upwards, and joined together, are found passing under the true skin of the back of the body upon the right, the feet being extricated, and standing up heel to heel, nearly in its face.

The child is a female, with apparently a perfect sexual organization. The bodies do not exactly face each other, but are more nearly face to face, than side to side. One is apparently somewhat more robust than the other, and it is evident that in many of the characteristics of their constitution they are different. As one is capable of suffering while the other is unconscious of pain, it follows that their nervous systems are several, from which it is, we suppose, to be inferred that in case they should survive, each will possess a character and individuality of its own.

This strange phenomenon is the offspring of respectable parents at Lancaster. Although delicate, it is thought the chances are in favor of its surviving. The case is in the hands of Dr. Boettle, one of the ablest physicians of the State, whose skill in its treatment is spoken of in terms of high commendation.

TWELVE RULES FOR THE YEAR.

The following rules are intended mainly for the guidance of young men and women:

1. Get married—if you can; but look before you leap. Love matches are romantic—notice things to read about—but they have been tried in the past and then; so says the Marvel, esq.
2. Unite in overthrowing the fashion which translates civility into love.
3. Go to church at least once a week.
4. Whenever you see a lecture advertised set the evening upon which it is to be delivered apart for reading fifteen pages of a good book.
5. Circulate no scandal.
6. Avoid all kinds of spirits—particularly spirit rappers.
7. If in the theatre or any other place of amusement, do not level your opera glasses at strangers.
8. Never notice the clothing of persons attending divine worship, nor stand in front of the house of God after service.
9. Never ask another man what his business is—where he is going to—where he came from—when left—when he intends to go back or the number of his dollars. You may inquire as to the state of his health, and that of his parents, sisters and brothers—but venture no further.
10. Defend the innocent, help the poor, and cultivate a spirit of friendship among all your acquaintances.
11. Never speak disparagingly of women and endeavor to conquer all your prejudices. Believe persons to be sincere in the religion which they profess.
12. Be economical, but not parsimonious nor niggardly. Make good use of your dollars, not idols. Live within your means never borrow money.

The Young Lady who fancied she was a grown-up person, and who had been married to the young gentleman who sent her to St. Petersburg a large cargo of heartstones for cleaning steps for Russia.

The fellow who "creaked a joke," has sent it to be repaired.

THE WHITE ROSE.

BY VIRGINIA F. TOWNSEND.

She was a sweet child, little Enna Willis, and her face shone like some rare old picture out of its world of golden hair, and her young widowed mother folded her to her heart, and blessed the Great Father that Enna's hair and eyes were like those that had lain ever since the early June time under the white shroud plait.

"Look, mamma, its leaves are beginning to unfold, and it will be entirely opened by New Year's night, so that I can wear it to Helen's party," and Enna lifted her fair, eager face from the flower, whose snowy petals were just breaking through their sheath of green. The winter rose-bush was a gift from Enna's father, and it was his last one. No wonder the child loved it.

"Yes, darling, you shall wear it, twined right here in this bunch of curls," and the small fingers lifted the bright tresses tenderly from Enna's forehead, while the mother's pensive features reflected somewhat of the light in her child's.

Every day, every hour, Enna watched it as a miser watches his gold. Every day the large creamy-looking petals curled outwards, and lay in exquisite contrast with the world of green leaves amid which the flower's beautiful life was opening.

"Do you want to come in and see my rose, little boy?"

Enna was returning from school that afternoon when her eyes first rested upon the child. He was standing before the window in whose embrasure her mother had placed the exotic, that the pale winter sunbeams might grant it a brief visit. The boy's large, mournful eyes were fastened eagerly on the large blossom, for it was now only two days before New Year's. His clothes were greatly worn, and patched with many colors, but Enna did not mind that—she only saw the eager light in those large brown eyes.

"Then you love flowers, do you, my child?" said Enna's mother, in her soft tones, as they all three stood before the plant.

"Oh! yes, ma'am; but not so well as Mary does. I was thinking when I stood out there on the pavement, looking at it, if Mary could only see it!"

"Who is Mary? Can't you bring her here?" asked Enna's mother.

"No!" said the boy, shaking his head mournfully. "Mary is my sister, and she is sick. Mamma says she cannot live much longer, and at night, in her dreams, she talks about the white roses that grew so thick in the low meadows, just west of where we used to live. They were just like those, and Mary used to weave wreaths of them every May. Oh! dear, if she could only see it!"

Mamma, whispered Enna, whilst her blue eyes were moist with tears, and she pulled mother's dress, "please give the rose to the little boy for his sick sister; I do not want it now."

"My good child," and the mother's tremulous lips dropped to Enna's forehead, "God will reward you for this."

"Do you mean it, ma'am?—do you really mean that I shall take this to Mary?" questioned the child, while his deep eyes gleamed with joy, as Mrs. Willis placed the precious branch in his hand. "Oh! how glad she will be!" and at the thought of his sister's great delight, the little heart gave way, and tears dashed over the boy's brown lashes.

It was New Year's night. Very beautiful looked Enna Willis in her pink dress and shining hair, and which her mother's tasteful fingers had twined a few green leaves, as she put up her little ripe lips for a parting kiss, before she started for her schoolmate's soiree.

At that moment the door opened, and the little stranger boy entered. His face was very white as he glided up to Mrs. Willis, and said:

"Mary is dying, and she has sent for the little girl who gave her the white rose. Please, ma'am, may she come, and you will come with her?"

"I've brought them, Mary, I've brought them!" cried the boy eagerly, as he ushered his guests into the chamber, where the light flickered with a strange, warm smile over the bare walls and the old chairs. A pale, grief-worn woman tottered forward, and led them toward a bed in one corner. The sick child lifted her head. "It was a very beautiful one, with its brown hair, and blue eyes, but the death-bell was on it."

"Come nearer," she cried faintly, "for somehow my eyes are growing blind," and the little old fingers closed round Enna's. "I held it all day, and at night I went to sleep with it in my hand. Yesterday the leaves dropped away, and an angel came to me and said, 'Don't cry for the rose, Mary. In a little while you shall come with me, and gather fairer ones.' Oh! I see them, I see them!" and the light surged once more into those blue eyes, and lightened up the rigid features with exceeding glory. "They are growing there, thousands and thousands of them, by a great shining river, and the angel stands there, and its white robe flows in great shining billows to its feet. Mother, Charles, good-bye! Little girl, for that rose you gave me, I will weave you a crown of those that blossom up there. They are larger and fairer, and I will have it ready when you come, and you shall wear it in that bright world."

The brown head sank back, the light went out from those bright eyes, and Mary had gone to braid Enna's rose-wreath in the great meadowy lands of heaven!

"How seldom it happens," said one friend to another; "that we find editors who are bred to the business."

"Very," replied the other; "and have you not remarked how seldom the business is bread to the editors?"

A Yankee in Iowa has taught ducks to swim in hot water, and with such success that they lay boiled eggs. Who says this is not an age of improvement?

CONSEQUENTIAL.

A Yankee was traveling last summer in the railway train from Liverpool to London. Two Englishmen occupied seats in his immediate vicinity. One by his side, the other *vis-a-vis* of the latter, and both between him and the window, which was down, the day being remarkably fine.

They were evidently Brumagems (Birmingham) bagmen, as commercial travelers in England are called; and were as uncommunicative as bears, and as uncommunicative as blank mill-stones. Our Yankee friend after several fruitless efforts to "bring them out," drew a large oblong chunk of Lettich's best Virginia tobacco from his pocket, and cutting off with a formidable Arkansas tooth-pick a liberal slice of it, he, with an air of rough cordiality, presented it first to one and then to the other. The only reply he got from either was a rough guttural "No" and a scowl of displeasure, which gave not our Yankee friend the least concern; for he stowed away the rejected quid in his own sinister jaw and commenced to masticate it as one who could appreciate its quality.

Finding his mouth fast filling with saliva, and desiring to spit out of the carriage without any violent exercise of the hydraulic glands of his lips, he politely asked his two fellow travelers, in succession, if they would exchange places with him and permit him to take a seat next the window. Another gruff negative shake of the head was the only reply.

Nothing disconcerted the Yankee, gathering the volume of liquid in his mouth, and stretching his neck, let fly the saliva over the hat of one of them and out of the window!

His torpid neighbor now, for the first time, showed signs of animation; for he jumped in his seat as if he were operated on by a galvanic battery, and taking off his hat hurriedly, and glancing over his clothes as well as he could in the same manner, to see if either were discolored or befouled, he again thrust on his hat and gave a most reproachful look at his downcast companion *du voyage*, which very plainly "damned his eyes" mentally, though not audibly. He might as well not, however, for the Yankee paid not the slightest attention to him, but kept his eyes on Murry's Guide Book, with the open blade of his Arkansas tooth-pick under the line which engaged his immediate study.

After some time another charge flew from his well-compressed lips over the head of the Englishman, who sat in an oblique direction from him!

Flesh and blood—English flesh and blood—could stand it no longer, and both exclaimed; as if they had studied together at rehearsal.

"Why! what in 'ell do you mean, sir? whether do you contemplate drowning us or poisoning us with your blasted tobacco juice. 'So 'elp us God, [both still speaking] we'll have you arrested when we go to London, for placing in jeopardy the lives of two of the liege subjects of her majesty the queen! Why, you must be one of the Cape of Good-Hope Killers, or a savage from the back woods of America."

"Look here, gentlemen," said our Yankee coolly, as they rose to go—"don't be on-edge—there ain't no use in massin. Keep your seats. I tell you I can shoot clean over you every lick, without a drop touching. Now, you see if I don't?"

The Yankee was preparing for another exhibition of his spitting power, but the Englishmen, not desirous of submitting to another experiment, ineffectually left—No one went between the Yankee and the window from that time till the cars reached London.

The Yankee spitefully boasts that he spitted his way to the best seat in the train.—N. O. Picayune.

IN DEBT AND OUT OF DEBT.

Of what a hideous progeny of ill is debt the father! What miseries, what horrors, what agonies, what cares, what double dealing! How, in due season, it will carve the frank, open face into wrinkles; how like a knife 'twill stab the honest heart. And then its transformation! How it has been, known to change a goodly face into a mask of brass; how, with the "damned customs" of debt has the true man become a callous trickster! A freedom from debt, and what nourishing sweetness may be found in cold water; what toothsome in a dry crust! What ambrosial nourishment in a hard egg! Be sure of it, he who dines out of debt, though his meal be biscuit and an onion, dines in "The Apollo."

And then for raiment: what warmth a threadbare coat, if the tailor's receipt be in the pocket; what Tyrian purple in the faded waistcoat, the vest not owed for; how glossy the well-worn hat, if it cover, not the aching head of a debtor! Next home-sweets, the out-door recreation of the free man. The street-door knocker fails not a knell on his heart; the foot on the staircase though he live on the third pair, sends no spasm through his anatomy; at the rap at his door he can crow forth, "come in," and his pulse still beat healthfully, his heart not sink in his bowels. See him abroad. How confidentially yet how pleasantly he takes the street; how he turns look for look with any passerby, how he saunters; how, meeting an acquaintance, he stands and gossips! But, then this man knows not debt; debt, that casts a drug into the richest wine, that makes the food of the gods unwholesome, indigestible; that sprinkles the banquet of a Lucullus with ashes, and drops not in the soup of an emperor; debt, that like moth, makes valueless furs, and velvets, enclosing the wearer in a festering prison, (the shirt of Nessus was a shirt not paid for); debt, that writes upon freestone walls the handwriting of the attorney; that puts a voice of terror in the knocker, that makes the heart quake at the haunted fire-side; debt, the invisible demon that walks abroad with a man, now quickening his steps, now making him look on all sides like a hunted beast, and now bringing to his face the ashy hue of death, as the unconscious passenger looks glancingly upon him. Poverty is a bitter draught, yet

may, and sometimes with advantage, be gulped down. The drinker makes very faces, there may, after all be a wholesome goodness in the cup. But debt however courteously it be offered, is the cup of a siren, and the wine, spiced and delicious though it be, an eating poison. The man out of debt, though with a claw in his jerk-in, a crack in his shoe leather, and a hole in his hat, is still the son of liberty, free as the singing lark above him; but the debtor, though clothed in the utmost bravery, what is he but a serf out upon a holiday—a slave to be reclaimed at any instant by his owner, the creditor? My son, if poor, see wine in the running spring; let thy mouth water at a last week's roll; think a threadbare coat the "only wear;" and acknowledge a whitewashed garret the fittest housing-place for a gentleman; do this, and sea debt. So shall thy heart be at peace; and the Sheriff be confounded.—*Douglas' Journal in "Heads of the People."*

From the War. Union.
CHART OF THE FUSIONISTS.
Scene: A gloomy cave, with a burning
candle in the centre, round which
several figures—"some in rags, and some in
tags, and some in velvet gowns"—are
sitting and throwing in their contribu-
tions.

Prophet of the Higher Law.
Throw the constitution in
Imp of Satan, brood of sin—
Outrage on God's and Nature's rules—
Idol of democrats and fools;
Let it shrivel, let it burn,
While round and round and round we turn,
"Double, double, and round and round,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble."
Garrison, Wright, Phillips, and others.
Thro' the Bible with us, too!
Only wit for wicked Jew;
Away with that old hoary cheat;
It has become quite obsolete—
The scold of each enlightened mind,
The present age it lags behind;
Like some old hobbling, stone-blind shrew,
That ne'er one blink of daylight knew,
Trotting her way, with crutch and dog,
Through thicket, hedge, or quivering bog,
Away with that old rusty scroll,
The higher law is enough for all.
"Double, double, and round and round,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble."

Trio of Senators.
In with the Nebraska bill,
Spit upon it he that will;
What though to keep the law we've sworn—
Such wicked oaths we laugh to scorn;
Thus it in the Devil's law—
Our only law the higher law—
The only binding oath you know where.
Among the faithful—ye know where.
In with that other law of evil.
That sacred "compact with the Devil"—
That slave law, which we all eschew,
As law-abiding men should do.
Throw a double dose of cant,
A hail-storm of loud-roaring rant,
Sprinkle some drops of smoking blood
Then thro' our ears, that none may see,
The cloak of hypocrisy,
That hides a multitude of sins,
And in a fusion always wins.
Now the chains are firm and strong,
Joins us in a parting song:
"Double, double, and round and round,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble."

Chorus of the Three Thousand.
Come from the East, come from the West,
The North, the South, wherever ye rest;
Come white and tories, black and white,
From the dark, secret realm of night—
Where lurking in some murky den,
And skulking from the eyes of men,
With lawless oaths ye bind the chain,
And stake your souls your ends to gain;
On you, in His high name, we call,
Tag, Rag, and Bobtail, one and all,
Ye that the holy palpit tread,
Desert your mission and your God;
A higher law invokes your aid—
A nobler duty than e'er saw'd;
The soul of piety and sage,
Or would the patriot's noble rage,
Now calls you to the rescue—come!
Let Politics be your new theme;
Instead of saving one poor soul,
This negroes free, and save the whole.
That is your only point of faith,
As Garrison most truly saith.
The Church is Heaven's special care,
We, therefore, may our labors spare,
Leaving to piety's legislation
The tedious task of reformation;
While we, transferred from Church to State,
Confront with politicians great,
Reverend and honorable members
Of honorable Senate chambers;
And from embassadors of God
Flourish the legislative rod;
Converting sinners by the law,
Of meagre sound of shofar's paw;
By fines, imprisonment, and fees,
And sweet appliances like these,
The "outward man" we'll take in hand,
And kick the "inward" rascal band;
Such acts as these are hard to train,
And kick in spite of bit or rein;
We'll therefore, leave them as they are,
And thus our useless labors spare.
Husks for future State conventions,
And clerical and church dissensions!
If we can't fuse them into one,
We'll have a little pious fun;
And since they will not brook our tether,
Let one and all by the ears together.
Then come, like clouds of locusts, thick,
And "beat the drum ecclesiastic";
Tag, Rag, and Bobtail, one and all,
In His high name on you we call.
"Double, double, and round and round,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble."

Prophet of the Higher Law.
"O, we all! I commend your pains,
And every one shall share its gains."
Now go, and out of this confusion
We'll make, my boys, a glorious fusion.
For me, I must not seem your man,
As that would mar my secret plan,
And ope the eyes of southern flats,
Although they seem as blind as bats,
And think, good souls, we've joined the lists
To fight the abolitionists!
We've cheated them ten times before,
Please God, we'll cheat 'em ten times more,
And make an league with those whose aim
Is their own ruin, blight, and shame.
Go forth! keep up the hue and cry;
In such a cause 'tis true to lie;
The end being good, the means are good,
Even though thro' perjury and blood;
To free the negroes were great gain,
Though all their masters should be slain.
But mark me, friends, tho' 'gainst the law
Your duty 'tis the dirk to draw,
You'll understand, as men of sense,
We do not counsel violence;
I am a law-abiding man,
And must obey it—when I can
Without a breach of higher law,
From which I all my precepts draw.
Go, then, sweet friends, and play the devil;
But, then, you must be very civil;
And when you've set the house on fire,
Like honest men to bed retire,
Leaving the fools you've got in trouble
To stand the burning of the bubble.
Mount your broomsticks, downward still,
"And, like a rat without a tail,
We'll do, we'll do, we'll do!"
Cook-a-doodle-do! (Cook crows.)
Hark! the tell-tale morn is nigh
That must not our dark orgies spight.
Put out the lights, put out the fire,
And to your burrows quick retire;
Dive deep, that none may see your wake,
Or hear the secret oaths you take;
Be blind as moles their way that play,
Unseen by any mortal eye.
And nothing know, and nothing tell;
And, sweet friends, awhile farewell;
I go the southern flats to wheedle
With twaddle-dum and twiddle-deedle.
Excellent ones.

UNITED STATES MAIL.
Post Office Department.
JANUARY 12, 1855.
PROPOSALS for carrying the mails of the
United States from 1st day of July, 1855,
to the 30th day of June, 1856, inclusive, in the
State of NORTH CAROLINA, will be received
at the Contract Office of the Post Office Depart-
ment, in the city of Washington, until 9 p. m.
of 10th April, 1855, (to be decided by the 30th
April, 1855) on the routes and in the times
herein specified.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Bidders are requested to examine carefully the in-
structions, forms of proposals, &c., attached to
this advertisement.

5534 From Williamston, by Flat Swamp and
Bethel, to Greenville, 23 miles and
back, once a week.
Leave Williamston Wednesday at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Greenville same day by 5 p. m.;
Leave Greenville Thursday at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Williamston same day by 5 p. m.;
5535 From Greenville to Durham's Neck, 6
miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Greenville Monday and Friday at
10 a. m.;
Arrive at Durham's Neck same days by 12 m.;
Leave Durham's Neck Monday and Friday
at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Greenville same day by 10 a. m.;
Proposals for a third weekly trip will be
considered.

5536 From Greenville, by Ward's Store, to
Hamilton, 30 miles and back, once a
week.
Leave Greenville Friday at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Hamilton same day by 5 p. m.;
Leave Hamilton Saturday at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Greenville same day by 5 p. m.;
5537 From Hookerton, by Ridge Spring,
Johnson's Mills, and Coxsville, to Greenvi-
lle, 54 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Hookerton Thursday at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Greenville same day by 6 p. m.;
Leave Greenville Friday at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Hookerton same day by 6 p. m.

5538 From Ocracoke, by Hatters, Cape, and
Kennebec, to Chickamacon, miles and
back, once a week.
Bidders will state distance and schedule
of departures and arrivals.

5539 From Goose Bay River to James Potters',
on Goose Creek Island, miles and
back, once a week.
Bidders will state distance and schedule
of departures and arrivals.

5540 From South Creek to Bay River, 9 miles
and back, once a week.
Leave South Creek Friday at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Bay River same day by 11 a. m.;
Leave Bay River Friday at 5 a. m.;
Arrive at South Creek same day by 7 a. m.

5541 From Currituck C. H., by Cojoke and
Poplar Branch, to Powell's Point, 25
miles and back, once a week.
Leave Currituck Thursday at 12 m.;
Arrive at Powell's Point same day by 6 p. m.;
Leave Powell's Point Saturday at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Currituck C. H. same day by 6 p. m.

5542 From Powell's Point, by Nag's Head, to
Roanoke Island, 30 miles and back,
once a week.
Leave Powell's Point Monday at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Roanoke Island same day by 6 p. m.;
Leave Roanoke Tuesday at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Powell's Point same day by 6 p. m.

5543 From Pungo Creek to North Creek, 9
miles and back, once a week.
Leave Pungo Creek Thursday at 12 m.;
Arrive at North Creek same day by 3 p. m.;
Leave North Creek Thursday at 9 a. m.;
Arrive at Pungo Creek same day by 12 m.

5544 From Pungo Creek to Knott's Island, 15
miles and back, once a week.
Leave Pungo Creek Monday at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Knott's Island same day by 12 m.;
Leave Knott's Island Monday at 2 p. m.;
Arrive at Pungo Creek same day by 7 p. m.

5545 From Elizabeth City, by Camden, Shiloh,
Indian-town, Sligo, Currituck C. H.,
Greentown, Tull's Creek, North West
River Bridge, Vaickory Ground, and
Great Bridge, to Norfolk, 70 miles and
back, once a week.
Leave Elizabeth City Wednesday at 5 a. m.;
Arrive at Norfolk next day by 12 m.;
Leave Norfolk Thursday at 1 p. m.;
Arrive at Elizabeth City next day by 8 p. m.

5546 From Norfolk, by Newington Creek, to
Elizabeth City, 15 miles and back, three
times a week.
Leave Norfolk Monday, Wednesday,
and Friday at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Elizabeth City same days by 12 m.

5547 From Elizabeth City Monday, Wednes-
day, and Friday at 2 p. m.;
Arrive at Norfolk same days by 6 p. m.;
From Middleton to Cape Hatteras, 30 miles
and back, once a week.
Leave Middleton Saturday at 1 p. m.;
Arrive at Cape Hatteras next day by 12 m.;
Leave Cape Hatteras next day by 1 p. m.;
Arrive at Middleton next day by 11 a. m.

5548 From Washington, by Rock, Pungo
Creek, Pantego, Leeville, Sladesville,
Swan Quarter, Lake Comfort, Lake
Landing, and Middletown, to Fairfield,
127 miles and back, twice a week.
Leave Washington Thursday at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Middletown next Saturday by 12 m.;
Arrive at Fairfield same day by 6 p. m.;
Leave Fairfield Monday at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Washington next Wednesday by 7 p. m.

5549 From Washington Saturday at 1 p. m.;
Arrive at Bath same day by 6 p. m.;
Leave Bath Saturday at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Washington the same day by 12 m.

5550 From Washington to Ocracoke, and
thence to Portsmouth, 85 miles and
back, once a week.
Leave Washington Thursday at 5 p. m.;
Arrive at Ocracoke next Saturday at 1 p. m.;
Leave Ocracoke Saturday at 1 p. m.;
Arrive at Portsmouth same day by 4 p. m.;
Leave Portsmouth Monday at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Washington next Wednesday by 12 m.

5551 Proposals for service twice a week by
steamer to be considered.
From Washington to Campbell's Creek;
miles and back, once a week.
Bidders will state distance and schedule.
5552 From Washington, by Blount's Creek
and Durham's Creek, to South Creek,
30 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Washington Thursday at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Durham's Creek same day by 2 p. m.;
Leave Durham's Creek same day by 6 p. m.;
Arrive at South Creek same day by 6 p. m.;
Leave South Creek Friday at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Durham's Creek same day by 11 a. m.;
And at Washington same day by 7 a. m.;
Proposals to extend to Bay River are in-
vited.

5553 From Windsor, by Merry Hill, Ashland,
Colrain, Harrellville, and Pitch Land
ing, to Murfreesboro', 61 miles and
back, twice a week.
Leave Windsor Wednesday and Saturday
at 4 a. m.;
Arrive at Murfreesboro' same days by 11 p. m.;
Leave Murfreesboro' Tuesday and Friday at 4 a. m.;
Arrive at Windsor same days by 11 p. m.

5554 From Murfreesboro' to Boykin's Depot, 13
miles and back, three times a week.
Leave Murfreesboro' Monday, Wednesday,
and Friday at 11 a. m.;
Arrive at Boykin's Depot same days by 3 p. m.

5555 Proposals for three additional trips will
be considered, to be run in connexion
with mails from Raleigh.
From Plymouth, by Washington and
Swift Creek Bridge, to Newbern, 70
miles and back, three times a week.
Leave Plymouth Tuesday, Thursday, and
Saturday at 2 a. m.;
Arrive at Washington w. e. days by 11 a. m.

And at Newbern same days by 10 p. m.;
Leave Newbern Monday, Wednesday, and
Friday at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Washington same days by 12 m.
And at Plymouth, by Union and Scupper-
non, to Columbia, 39 miles and back,
twice a week.
Leave Plymouth Thursday and Saturday
at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Columbia same days by 4 p. m.;
Leave Columbia Friday and Monday at
8 a. m.;
Arrive at Plymouth same days by 8 p. m.

5556 From Columbia to Fort Landing, 20 miles
and back, once a week.
Leave Columbia Friday at 6 a. m.;
Arrive at Fort Landing same day by 12 m.
Leave Fort Landing Friday at 1 p. m.;
Arrive at Columbia same day by 7 p. m.

5557 From Columbia to Gum Neck, 20 miles
and back, once a week.
Leave Columbia every Friday at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Gum Neck same day by 12 m.;
Leave Gum Neck Friday at 1 p. m.;
Arrive at Columbia same day by 7 p. m.

5558 From Franklin Depot, Monday, Wednes-
day, and Friday at 11 p. m.;
Arrive at Plymouth same days by 11 p. m.
Leave Plymouth Monday, Wednesday,
and Friday at 11 p. m.;
Arrive at Franklin Depot next days by 10 a. m.

5559 Proposals for three additional weekly
trips to be considered.
From Gatesville to Gates Ferry, 3 miles
and back, three times a week.
Leave Gatesville Monday, Wednesday,
and Friday at 2 p. m.;
Arrive at Gates Ferry same days by 3 p. m.

5560 From Gates Ferry Monday, Wednesday,
and Friday, after arrival of boat from
Franklin Depot, say 5 p. m.;
Arrive at Gatesville same days by 6 p. m.

5561 From Edenton, by Hatteras, Woodville,
Elizabeth City, Hintonville, South
Mills, and Deep Creek, Va., to Norfolk,
71 miles and back, three times a week
to Elizabeth City, and six times residue.
Leave Edenton Monday, Thursday, and
Saturday at 8 a. m.;
Arrive at Elizabeth City same days by 11 p. m.

5562 Leave Elizabeth City daily, except Sun-
day, at 7 a. m.;
Arrive at Norfolk same days by 4 p. m.;
Leave Norfolk Tuesday, Thursday, and
Saturday, after the arrival of boat from
Baltimore, say 10 a. m.;
Arrive at Edenton same days by 12 a. m.

5563 Leave Norfolk Monday, Wednesday, and
Friday, after arrival from Baltimore,
say 10 a. m.;
Arrive at Elizabeth City same days by 6 p. m.

5564 From Edenton, by Ballard's Bridge, Min-
tonville, Samsbury, Gatesville, Buck-
land, Reynoldson, and Souteron, Va., to
Suffolk, 71 miles and back, once a
week.
Leave Edenton Thursday at 4 a. m.;
Arrive at Suffolk next day by 4 p. m.;
Leave Suffolk Tuesday at 11 a. m.;
Arrive at Edenton next day by 8 p. m.

INSTRUCTIONS.
Form of a proposal where no change from advertise-
ment is contemplated by the bidder.
I, _____, of _____, county of _____, State
of _____, propose to carry the mails from July
1, 1855, to June 30, 1856, on route _____,
from _____ to _____, agreeably to the advertise-
ment of the Postmaster General, dated January
12, 1855, and by the following mode of con-
veyance, viz: _____
for the annual sum of _____ dollars.

This proposal is made with full knowledge of
the distance of the route, the weight of the mail
to be carried, and of all other particulars in re-
ference to the route and service, and also after full
examination of the instructions and require-
ments attached to the advertisement.

Dated _____ (Signed) _____
Form of a Guarantee.
The undersigned, residing at _____, State
of _____, undertake that, if the foregoing bid for
carrying the mail on route _____, accepted
by the Postmaster General, the bidder shall, prior
to the 1st day of July, 1855, or as soon
thereafter as may be, enter into the required ob-
ligation to perform the service proposed, with
good and sufficient securities.

This we do with full knowledge of the obliga-
tions and liabilities assumed by guarantors
under the 27th section of the act of Congress
of July 2, 1836.

Dated _____ (Signed by two guarantors.) _____
Form of Certificate.
The undersigned, postmaster of _____, State
of _____, certifies, under his oath of office, that
he is acquainted with the above guarantors, and
knows them to be men of property, and able to
make good their guarantee.

Dated _____ (Signed.) _____
The sufficiency of guarantors on proposals
may be certified by a judge of a court of record,
and by postmasters at the following offices, and
no other.

In the State of NORTH CAROLINA, postmas-
ters of offices at the court-house or county seat
of each county; and at Chapel Hill, Davidson
College, Fayetteville, Front Royal, Greens-
boro', Goldsboro', Henderson, Ken-
nesaw, Milton, Murfreesboro', Oxford, Salem,
South Neck, Williamston, Yanceyville.

Conditions to be incorporated in the contracts to the
extent the department may deem proper.
1. Seven minutes are allowed to each interme-
diate office, when not otherwise specified, for as-
serting the mails; but on railroad and steamboat
routes there is to be no more delay than is suffi-
cient for an exchange of the mail bags.

2. On railroad and steamboat lines, British
mail coaches, or other vehicles, are to be con-
veyed without additional pay; also, the route
agents of the department, for whose exclusive
use, while travelling with the mails, a commodi-
ous, or apartment in the centre of a car,
properly lighted, warmed, and furnished, and
adapted to the convenient assortment and due
security of the mails is to be provided by the
contractor, under the direction of the department.

No pay will be made for trips not performed;
and for each of such omissions not satisfactorily
three times the pay of the trip may be deducted.
For arrivals so far behind time as to break con-
nexion with the regular mails, and not sufficient
to excuse, one-fourth of the compensation of the
trip is subject to forfeiture. Deduction will also
be ordered for a grade of performance inferior
to that specified in the contract. For repeated
delinquencies of the kind here specified, en-
larged penalties, proportioned to the nature
thereof and the importance of the mail, may be
imposed.

3. For leaving behind, or throwing off the
mails, or any portion thereof, or the admission
of passengers, or for being concerned in setting
up or running up an express conveying commer-
cial intelligence ahead of the mail, a quarter's
pay may be deducted.

4. If a fine is imposed, unless the delin-
quency be promptly and satisfactorily explained
by certificates of postmasters; or the affidavits of
credible persons, for failing to arrive in
time, or for delivering the mail at a wrong place,
it (owing either to the unsuitableness of the
place or manner of carrying it) to be injured,
destroyed, robbed, or lost; and for refusing, af-
ter demand, to convey the mail as frequently as
the contractor runs, or is concerned in running,
a coach, car, or steamboat, on a route.

5. The Postmaster General may annul
the contract for repeated failures to run
agreeably to contract, for disobeying the
Post Office laws, or the instructions of the
department; for refusing to discharge a
carrier when required by the department
to do so; for assigning the contract without
the assent of the Postmaster General
for running an express as aforesaid; or for
transporting persons or packages convey-
ing valuable matter out of the mail.

6. The Postmaster General may order
an increase of service on a route by allow-
ing therefor a *pro rata* increase on the
contract pay. He may change the sched-
ule of arrivals and departures, without
increase of pay, provided he does not en-
large the route.

also order an increase of speed; he allow-
ing, within the restrictions of the law, a
pro rata increase of pay for the additional
cost of carriers, if any. The contractor
may, however, in the case of increase of
speed, relinquish the contract by giving
prompt notice to the department that he
prefers doing so to carrying the order into
effect. The Postmaster General may also
cancel or discontinue the service, at *pro
rata* decrease of pay, allowing one month's
extra compensation on the amount dispen-
sed with, whenever, in his opinion, the
public interests do not require the same,
or in case he desires to supersede it by
a different grade of transportation.

9. Payments will be made for the service
by collections from, or drafts on, post-
masters, or otherwise, after the expiration
of each quarter—say in February, May,
August, and November.

10. The distances are given according
to the best information; but no increase
of pay will be allowed should they be
greater than advertised, if the points to be
served be correctly stated. Bidders must
inform themselves on this point.

11. The Postmaster General is prohibited
by law from knowingly making a con-
tract for the transportation of the mails
with any person who shall have entered
into, or proposed to enter into, any
combination to prevent the making of
any bid for a small contract by any
other person or persons, or who shall have
made any agreement, or shall have given
or performed, or promised to give or per-
form, any consideration whatever, or to
do, or not to do, anything whatever, in
order to induce any other person or per-
sons not to bid for a mail contract.

Particular attention is called to the 28th sec-
tion of the act of 1836, prohibiting com-
binations to prevent bidding.

12. A bid received after time—viz: 3
p. m. of the 10th of April, 1855—or
without the guarantee required by law, or
that combines several routes in one sum of
compensation, cannot be considered in com-
petition with a regular proposal reasonable
in amount.

13. Bidders should, in all cases, first
propose for service strictly according to
the advertisement, and then, if they de-
sire *separately* for different service; and if
the regular bid be the lowest offered for
the advertised service, the other bids may
be considered, if the alterations proposed
are recommended by the postmasters and
citizens interested, or if they shall appear
manifestly right and proper.

14. There should be but one route bid
for in a proposal.

15. The route, the service, the yearly
pay, the name and residence of the bidder
and those of each member of a firm, where
a company offers, should be distinctly stat-
ed; also, the mode of conveyance, if a
higher mode than horseback be intended.
The words "with due celerity, certainty,
and security," inserted to indicate the
mode of conveyance, will constitute a
"star bid."

16. Bidders are requested to use, as far
as practicable, the printed form of propos-
al furnished by the department, to write
out in full the sum of their bids, and to re-
tain copies of them.

No altered bids can be considered, and
no bids once submitted can be withdrawn.
Each bid must be guaranteed by two re-
sponsible persons. General guarantees
cannot be admitted.

17. The bid should be sealed; superser-
ised "mail proposals, State of North Car-
olina," addressed "Second Assistant Post-
master General," Contract Office, and sent
by mail, not by, or to, an agent, and
postmasters will not enclose proposals (or
letters of any kind) in their quarterly re-
turns.

18. The contracts are to be executed and
returned to the department by or before
the 1st of July, 1855, but the service
must be commenced on the mail day next
after that date, whether the contracts be
executed or not. No proposition for trans-
fers will be considered until the contracts
are executed in due form and received at
the department; and then no transfers will
be allowed unless good and sufficient rea-
sons therefor are given, to be determined
by the department.

19. Postmasters at offices on or near
railroads, but more than eighty rods from
a station, will, immediately after the 10th
of April next, report their exact distance
from the nearest station, and how they are
otherwise supplied with the mail, to enable
the Postmaster General to direct a mail-
messenger supply from the 1st of July
next.

20. Section 18 of an act of Congress
approved March 3, 1845, provides that
contracts for the transportation of the mail
shall be let, in every case, to the lowest
bidder tendering sufficient guarantees for
faithful performance, without other refer-
ence to the mode of such transportation
than may be necessary to provide for the
due celerity, certainty, and security of
such transportation." Under this law a
new description of bids has been received.
It does not specify a mode of conveyance,
but engages to take the entire mail each
trip with celerity, certainty, and security,
using the terms of the law. Those bids
are styled, from the manner in which they
are designated on the books of the depart-
ment, "*star bids*," and they will be con-
sidered as providing for the entire mail,
however large, and whatever may be the
mode of conveyance necessary to insure its
"*celerity, certainty, and security*."

In all cases where the lowest grade of
service is believed to be sufficient, the low-
est bid will be accepted, if duly guaranteed.
When the lowest bid is not a "*star bid*,"
and specifies either no mode or an inade-
quate mode of conveyance, it will not be
accepted, but set aside for a specific bid
proposing the necessary service.

When the bid does not specify a mode
of conveyance, also when it proposes to
carry "according to the advertisement,"
but without such specification, it will be
considered as a proposal for horseback ser-
vice.

21. A modification of a bid, in any of
its essential terms, is tantamount to a new
bid, and cannot be received, so as to in-
terfere with regular competition, after the
last hour set for receiving bids.

22. Postmasters are to be careful not to
certify the sufficiency of guarantors or su-
reties without knowing that they are per-
sons of sufficient responsibility; and all
bidders, guarantors, and sureties are dis-
tinctly notified that, on a failure to en-
sure or perform the contracts for the ser-
vice proposed for the accepted bids, their
legal liabilities will be enforced against
them.

23. The contracts will be substantially
in the forms heretofore used in this depart-
ment.

mentioned in these instructions; and on all
railroads and steamboats the contractor
will be required to deliver the mail into
the post offices at the ends of the
routes and into all the intermediate post
offices not more than eighty rods from the
railroad or landing place.

24. Present contractors, and persons
known at the department, must, equally
with others, procure guarantors and cer-
tificates of their sufficiency substantially in
the forms above prescribed. The certifi-
cates of sufficiency must be signed by a
postmaster at one of the places before
named, or a judge of a court of record.

Postmasters at the ends of routes on
which they think the present mode of con-
veyance inadequate, will weigh the mail
each trip for six successive weeks on week-
ly routes, and three weeks on other routes,
and report the result by the 10th April,
1855.

JAMES CAMPBELL,
Postmaster General.
jan 30—12

GREAT ATTRACTION
IN
DRY GOODS,
READY MADE CLOTHING, &c.
H. CURRAN having just returned
from the North with a large Stock of
Dry Goods, Groceries, Ready Made Clothing,
&c., offers them for sale on the most accommo-
dating terms.

He respectfully solicits the attention of his
friends and the public generally to his stock of
Dry Goods, consisting of Silks, Worsteds, Cal-
icoes, Vests, Cuffs, and Wool Shaws,
Cloaks, Lawns, Cambrics, Bleached and Un-
bleached Cottons, Flannels, Laces, Edgings,
Chemists, under Shaws, Silk, Linen and Cot-
ton Handkerchiefs, Hosiery and Half Hose, Gloves,
&c.

READY MADE CLOTHING,
Blue and Black Cloth Coats, Overcoats, Pants,
Vestings, Shirts, Collars, Cravats, Drawers,
Hose, &c.

GROCERIES.
Coffee, Sugar, Molasses, Best New Orleans
Syrup, Tea, Rice, Tobacco, Flour, Candles,
Soap, Pepper, Starch, Mustard, Table Salt, Alu-
min, Baking Powder, Ginger, Short and Long
Cups, yeast Powders, Claret, Butter, Crackers,
Sugar, Soda, Soda, Soda, Soda, Soda, Soda,
Shoe Brushes, Nutmegs, Sausage, Lard, Lemon
Syrup, Matches, &c.

BOOKS.
Spelling Books, Copy Books, Table Books,
Grammar, Geography, History, Classics, Dic-
tionaries, 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th,
10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th,
19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th,
28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th,
37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th,
46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th,
55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd,
64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd,
73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st,
82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th,
91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th,
100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th,
108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th,
116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd,
124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st,
132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th,
140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th,
148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th,
156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd,
164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st,
172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th,
180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 18